

# THE BETTER *WAY TO GO!*

HANDLING  
PROPANE

IN THE HOME  
AND  
ON THE ROAD



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# THE BETTER *WAY TO GO!*

Propane fuels the lives of Canadians in so many ways. As a highly portable fuel, propane provides you with modern convenience no matter where you live or travel. Stored as a liquid and used as a gas, it will cook your meals, heat your home, RV or camper, keep you supplied with hot water, and even refrigerate your food. Propane is versatile, economical and safe.



This booklet contains some important points for the use, storage and handling of propane. You and your family should be familiar with these tips.

## WHAT'S THAT SMELL?

**W**hen produced, propane is a colourless and odourless gas. A smell is added so, in the event of a leak, you can detect the escaping gas by its strong, distinct odour (like rotten eggs or boiling cabbage). Ask your propane supplier to familiarize you and your family with this smell.

Under certain circumstances, propane may lose this smell. Also, not everyone has a sense of smell and physical conditions such as competing odours, common colds, allergies and smoking may lessen a person's ability to detect odours.

If you think the odour of your propane is fading or your sense of smell is weak, call your propane supplier. A service technician can verify the odour of the propane in your tank. If your sense of smell is weak, consider installing an electronic propane detector in your home, RV or camper.

### Remember

If you suspect a leak, follow these steps:

1. Have everyone leave immediately.
2. Do not turn light switches or flashlights 'ON' or 'OFF'. Do not operate phones.
3. Close all cylinder or tank supply valves.
4. From a neighbour's house, call your propane supplier to come and look at the problem.

# IN THE HOME

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## PROPANE SYSTEM CHECK

If your home has a propane furnace, water heater, range or other conveniences, you should schedule an annual check of your whole propane system, including the appliances.

Your local propane supplier will send a trained service technician to check your system for leaks and ensure it meets all applicable operating standards. The technician will also check your tank, piping, regulators gauges, connectors, valves, vents, thermostats, pilots, burners and appliance controls to make sure they are in good working condition.

## CHILDREN

Parents should make sure children know the rules of propane appliance operation.

Let your children know what typical noises your furnace, water heater or refrigerator can make.

They will be less fearful on their own if they know the water heater normally gurgles or the furnace sometimes creaks and pops.

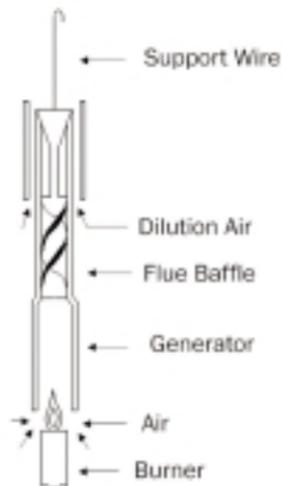
Children should know not to turn on propane appliances without parental supervision; to keep papers and toys away from furnaces, space heaters and gas fireplaces; and to stay off propane storage tanks and away from shut-off valves.



## PROPANE REFRIGERATORS

Your propane refrigerator will provide many years of trouble free service. However, the burner and flue may become blocked or ineffective after one year of use or if the refrigerator has been moved or turned off for an extended period. This may result in carbon monoxide being produced, (see page 8).

Minimize the possibility of any problem by having a trained technician inspect and clean your refrigerator once a year or each time it's moved.



## SPACE HEATERS, GAS LOG AND FIREPLACE SYSTEMS

Have your propane space heaters, gas log and fireplace systems checked each fall. During your propane supplier's inspection, a trained technician will check the system, clean the control compartments and burners, and make sure all components are operating properly.

# ON THE ROAD

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## APPLIANCE USE

**A**ppiances must be specifically approved for use in your RV or camper. Properly adjusted appliances are very important. Improper flame adjustment (which you can detect by a yellow flame at the burner tip) is inefficient and can produce dangerous amounts of carbon monoxide, (see page 8). When using your oven and/or range, open a vent or window to make certain there is an adequate supply of air for proper operation. Never use the top burners or oven for heating an RV or camper.

## CYLINDER REQUALIFICATION

**A**ll propane cylinders must be inspected and requalified by a qualified technician every 10 years. For information about cylinder markings, inspection and requalification, talk to your propane supplier.

Your cylinder must also have a decal like the one below, which identifies the contents as a flammable gas.

**Remember**

**Never ask a filling attendant to fill an outdated cylinder. It's against the law.**

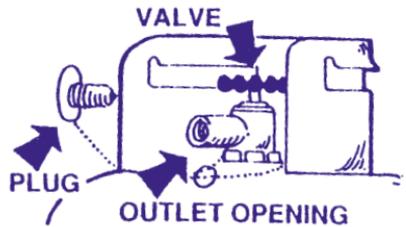


1075 Shoulder Label

## HANDLING PROPANE CYLINDERS PROPERLY

Whether transporting or storing your propane cylinder, here are some things you must do:

- Always transport cylinders in a secured, upright position in a well ventilated space.
- When transporting or storing disconnected cylinders, plug or cap all cylinder outlets.
- Never use or store cylinders in the passenger space or living area of your RV or camper.
- Always store a cylinder outdoors and off the ground on a non-combustible base.
- Damaged or out of date cylinders should be returned to your propane supplier for disposal or requalification.

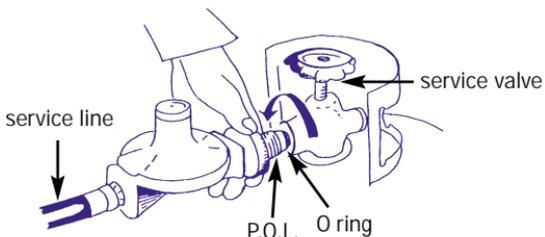


## REFUELLING PERMANENTLY MOUNTED CYLINDERS

Before entering the refuelling area, turn off all pilot lights, appliances, and automatic ignition devices. Before permanently mounted propane cylinders are refuelled, turn off the vehicle engine and have all passengers leave the RV or camper.

## RECONNECTING CYLINDERS

1. Make sure all appliance valves are shut off, then reconnect the cylinder to the service line.
2. Turn the service valve on and listen for gas flowing through the regulator.
3. If you hear gas flowing, immediately shut off the cylinder service valve and check that all appliance valves are turned off and there are no open lines.



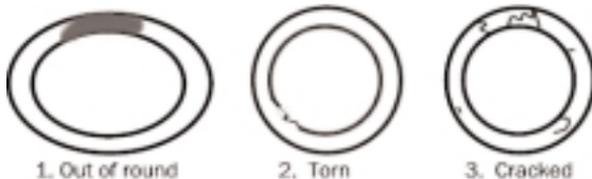
4. Check all cylinder connections for leaks. Use a commercial leak detector solution or a mixture of 50% liquid soap and 50% water. Brush on to any connections or valves. Repair all leaks before lighting your appliances.



5. Relight appliances by following manufacturer's instructions.

## THE REGULATOR

Cylinders equipped with a P.O.L. (Put on Left) fitting require an "O" ring. Check the "O" ring every time you connect the cylinder. Replace if it's:



# CARBON MONOXIDE

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Carbon monoxide is a colourless and odourless gas, that can't be smelled.

If you are exposed to carbon monoxide, you may experience any or all of these symptoms:

- Headaches, tightness across the forehead and temples
- Weariness, weakness, dizziness and vomiting
- Loss of muscular control
- Watering and smarting of the eyes



If any of these symptoms should develop, get into fresh air immediately, see your doctor for treatment and have your propane appliances checked and repaired as needed.

## HOW TO GUARD AGAINST CARBON MONOXIDE

1. Never use the oven or stove top burner to heat your RV or camper.
2. Never use any propane appliance in your home, camper or RV that is not specifically approved for use in that location.
3. Never take a barbecue grill (propane or charcoal) inside your home, garage or vehicle to cook or heat with.
4. Have a qualified propane service person annually test all appliances for proper operation.
5. Always be sure your home, camper or RV are properly ventilated.
6. Install approved carbon monoxide detectors in your home, camper and RV to warn of the presence of carbon monoxide. In your home, it's recommended that you install one detector on each level.

THE RIGHT *WAY TO GO!*

Contact your propane supplier if you have any questions or concerns about the proper operation of your propane system or appliances.